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PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL NEWS AND EVENTS



CSR West Boatyard in Ballard is among three Seattle-area boatyards participating in efforts to improve Puget Sound's water quality.

Edmonds boatyard will receive a system using passive adsorptive filtration from StormwaterRX in Portland, Oregon. CSR West in Ballard will use technology installed by Water Tectonics of Everett called electrocoagulation — a process by which electromagnetic energy separates metals from water. Canal Boatyard in Ballard will process toxics using ionic exchange through a system installed by Siemens of Vancouver, Washington.

Boatyard Storm Water Project to Protect Northwest Water Quality

SEATTLE — Cutting-edge technology that removes toxic substances from storm water runoff was installed in three Washington boatyards in a new research project that began at the end of 2007.

The effort aims to protect water quality in Puget Sound and other nearby waters. The project was constructed in an agreement among the Northwest Marine Trade Association (NMTA), the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance and the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology).

The Storm Water Pilot Project studies the new technology-based treatment in three boatyards to control levels of

copper, lead and zinc found in the facilities' runoff into nearby bodies of water. Rain and surface water that run through boatyards pick up debris from the yard and the surrounding areas. Copper is of critical concern — a metal used in boat paint to deter plant and animal growth on boats. Studies by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service have shown that dissolved copper harms the sense of smell in juvenile salmon.

Manufacturers of the treatment equipment will install a different technology in each of the three boatyards to reduce the levels of the toxins in their storm water runoff. The Port of

The project partners plan to issue a report on the studies' results in March. The technology that produces the best results — the system that removes the greatest amount of contaminants from storm water efficiently — may serve as the recommended solution for boatyards across the state.

Organizers of the project believe the technology from this study could be applied to other industries around the region.

"I'm proud that the boating industry is doing its part to clean up Washington waters," said Michael Campbell, NMTA president. "Not only is this a tremendous step forward for our industry, but it may also encourage other industries to address the runoff from their own properties."

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